

Southern Class Asphalt Truck Wreck, Ft. Payne, Dekalb County, AL

FINAL POLREP, 12/04/02

Actions

On September 13, 2002, approximately 800 hours, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) was notified that a tractor-tanker rig had wrecked and released its cargo on Alabama Highway 35 in Fort Payne, Alabama. The tanker was reported to be hauling liquid asphalt and the material had flowed into a storm drain and into Hawkins Spring Creek. The Fort Payne Fire Department and City Works employees were on-scene trying to contain the release and to minimize the impact to the community and the environment. Mr. Ricky Little, DeKalb County EMA Director, reported to the ADEM that three containment areas had been established, the first at the wreck site and the second and third were in Hawkins Spring Creek. Mr. Little also requested that the ADEM respond to the scene for technical assistance in the response and recovery efforts involved with the incident. Fred Stroud of EPA Region 4 was notified of the incident at that time.

Bruce Freeman was dispatched to the incident from the Decatur Field Office of the ADEM. Mr. Freeman arrived on-scene at 1100 hours. The contact information for the trucking company's owner was obtained. Mr. Danny Moxon is the owner of the trucking company. Mr. Moxon was contacted and advised that an environmental contractor needed to be dispatched to the incident to begin the recovery ASAP. Mr. Moxon agreed to make arraignments to have a contractor on-scene that afternoon. At 1230 hours, Mr. Freeman was notified that Action Environmental Services from Hanceville, Alabama, had been contracted by the PRP to respond.

Action Environmental arrived on-scene at 1400 hours and began removal of the spilled asphalt from the street and Hawkins Spring Creek.

The goals established for the response were to recover the spilled material as quickly as possible and to restore the impacted area to as near original condition as possible.

Work proceeded smoothly until September 20, 2002. Mr. John Millidge of Action Environmental stated that there appeared to be a problem with the PRP's insurance coverage and that Action Environmental would have to stop the response until the PRP's ability to pay for the response could be established. The removal was about 75% complete at this time and none of the disposal had begun. Sorbent boom was maintained in the creek to minimize leaching of material during rain events during the entire response operation.

The ADEM contacted the PRP on the 23rd and 24th of September to discuss the status of insurance to cover the cost of the response. Mr. Moxon stated that Progressive Insurance was reviewing the case but would not commit to pay for the response. I explained that the project needed to be finished ASAP and that the ADEM would be securing funds through the US-EPA Region 4 to complete the removal, disposal and restoration of the site. I also explained that cost recovery efforts would follow the use of Federal funds. Mr. Moxon

said that he understood the position of the ADEM and that he would continue to try and resolve the insurance issues.

On September 24, 2002, the ADEM contacted EPA Region 4, ERRB and requested to establish a PRFA to complete the response and recovery efforts. Approval for the PRFA was given on September 25, 2002. The contractor actions prior to the approval were not covered by the PRFA. Mr. Rick Jardine of EPA Region 4 was assigned as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator for this incident and all site activities were coordinated with Mr. Jardine.

On September 30, 2002, the ADEM and Action Environmental Services returned to the site to complete the removal of the spilled asphalt and to restore the impacted areas to their original condition. This work continued through October 3, 2002, at which time removal of the spilled material was complete, as well as, the restoration of the impacted creek bed. Disposal was accomplished over the next few days as the solid material was taken to Three Corner's Landfill in Etowah County, Alabama, for disposal. There were 225.4 tons of solid materials sent to the landfill. The liquid material recovered was also sent to Three Corners Landfill for solidification. This was a slow process because each vacuum box had to be steam cleaned and hand scraped to remove the asphalt material for disposal and decontamination of the boxes. There was 56.26 tons of material solidified at the landfill.

On November 12, 2002, Action Environmental returned to the site to complete the restoration of the private property impacted by the release and recovery efforts. This work was completed on the 12th and the project was considered complete.

POLREP #1, 09/23/02

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. Type of facility or Site: Overturned tanker truck.

B. Site description: On 13 SEP 02 a tanker truck transporting approximately 5200 gallons of hot asphalt oil overturned on State Highway 35 at the base of Lookout Mountain. An estimated 5,200 gallons of oil was discharged into Hawkins Spring Creek and associated storm drain system.

#### RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Actions Taken: ADEM identified the responsible party and oversights response efforts of the response contractor, Action Resources, secured by the RP. City of Fort Payne and DeKalb Fire, Police, and Public Works provided response services as needed. Response actions included containing and recovering oil from the creek.

One week into the response, the response contractor halted work at the scene due to the lack of a funding source. Containment booms were left in place.

On 25 SEP 02 ADEM contacted EPA requesting access to the National Oil Pollution Fund to complete the response to the oil discharge. OSC Jardine directed the response to obtain the following goals:

- continue to contain the oil by deploying booms, underflow dams, etc.;
- continue to recover oil from the creek and associated storm drainage system;
- restore the channel;
- remove oil from adjacent shorelines, including private properties;
- stage and dispose of contaminated soil and debris;
- stabilize site by replacing vegetation and landscaping.

Bruce Freeman is to coordinate activity as the SOSC.

On 30 SEP 02 work resumed on Site to complete the recovery of the asphalt. Recovery continued until 03 OCT 02. Disposal of contaminated materials and decontamination of equipment was accomplished over the next 5 weeks. Concurrently the Site was stabilized from erosion by reinstalling landscaping. All Site work was completed by 12 NOV 02.

B. Use of Innovative Technologies: Vacuum boxes were used on this site to allow for more product recovery while utilizing a fixed number of vacuum trucks.

C. Community Involvement, Future Considerations: None.

#### DISPOSITION OF WASTES

Approximately 225.4 tons of solid material was disposed at the Three Corner's Landfill in Etowah County, Alabama. Approximately 56.26 tons of liquid material was solidified at the same location.

#### ROSTER OF AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING IN REMOVAL

Agency/Organization Point of Contact Phone Role

US EPA Rick Jardine (404) 562-8764 EPA OSC

ADEM Bruce Freeman (256) 353-1713 State OSC

Action Environmental John Milledge Response Contractor

#### LESSONS LEARNED

Due to the nature of hot asphalt oil, decontamination of equipment should be accomplished as soon as possible because the physical characteristics change as the oil cools and cures. If the oil is allowed to cure, the decontamination process is much more labor intensive.